

REMARKS

The present invention relates to an antique style decorative sheet and to an antique style decorative laminate.

In the Office Action of January 16, 2007, the specification was objected to, with the Examiner indicating that trademarks should be set forth in all capitol letters. The Examiner noted an example of a trademark at page 6, line 1, viz., the term "TSUNAMITM". Applicant has amended the term to "TSUNAMITM" to indicate that it is a trademark, and similarly has amended the terms at pages 11 and 13 to read "RIVESTARTM". The Examiner next indicated that the listing of references from the Search Report was not considered in compliance with the information disclosure requirements, particularly for foreign language documents, with the Examiner noting that neither copies of the cited references or abstracts in Japanese or English had been provided. Regarding the prior art, claims 1 - 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on U.S. Patent 6,183,842 (Shimizu et al) in view of JP 62-198455 A (JP '455 - cited in the Search Report).

In response, Applicant has amended the specification and claims herein.

First, the trademark "TSUNAMITM" has been indicated in accordance with the Examiner's indication as a trademark, and the term "RIVESTARTM" at pages 11 and 13, has been similarly amended. The term TSUNAMITM is a trademark for a base layer made by Eastman

Company, as described in the sentence bridging pages 5 - 6. Similarly, the term RIVESTAR™ describes amorphous polyester-based resin sheets manufactured by Rikentchnos Corporation described, e.g., at page 11, lines 11 - 18 and page 13, lines 9 - 16.

Turning to the prior art rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 herein, including incorporation from claims 3 and 6, respectively; accordingly, claims 3 and 6 have been canceled, leaving claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 pending. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 4 and the claims dependent thereon distinguish over the cited prior art, and that the cited prior art provides no description of using a release base layer on a transfer foil. By using a release base layer on a transfer foil, the desired resin coat layer can be obtained easier than using other methods (coating). Therefore, the present invention is very effective to obtain the resin coat layer under various conditions. Such can not be achieved by the cited prior art references. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should now be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/551,577

Attorney Docket No.: Q90071

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement to which the Examiner objected, the undersigned has been able to obtain copies of the four cited foreign language documents, and has been able to obtain English language abstracts for three (3) of the four (4) references that were cited in the International Search Report, and copies thereof are submitted together with an Information Disclosure Statement submitted simultaneously herewith; an English language abstract has not been located so far for JP 62-198455, but will be provided if it can be obtained.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Ruch, Jr.
Registration No. 26,517

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 16, 2007